number of educational institutions operating in MCL Areas are as under:

	Number
Privately managed Schools	22
Kendriya Vidyalayas	2
DAV Public Schools	6
Colleges	1

GSI's estimate of coal reserves

780. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the reserves of coal estimated by the Geological Survey of India during Ninth Five Year Plan period, State-wise;

(b) whether exploration of coal deposits in any of the coal fields is being conducted;

(c) if so, the details of progress/ achievements in this regard; and

(d) whether Government propose to infuse fresh capital; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) (a): Assessment of coal reserves estimated by GSI during the first two years of IX Plan is 4,099 million tonnes. The state-wise details of additionality of coal reserves is given in table below:

Statewise coal reserves of India as estimated by GSI During IX Plan

(Reserves in Million Tonnnes)

State	1.1.99	1.1.97	Additional reserves Estimated in two years of IX Plan
Andhra Pradesh	13337	13057	280
Arunachal Pradesh	90	90	0
Assam	320	320	0
Bihar	68756	67819	937
Madhya Pradesh	42772	41451	1321
Maharashtra	6970	6739	231
Meghalya	459	459	0
Nagaland	20	20	0
Orissa	49061	47890	1171
Uttar Pradesh	1062	1062	0
West Bengal	25904	25745	159
TOTAL	208751	204652	4099

(b) and (c) The details of coalfields where exploration is being conducted alongwith the progress made in the past two years is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(d) During VIII Plan a sum of Rs. 49.06 crores was spent on promotional drilling. During IX Plan a provision of Rs. 130 crores have been approved by Planning Commission for undertaking exploration activities.

Statement

Coalfield-wise additionalities of coal reserves in first two years of IX Plan

(In Million Tonnes)

State	Coalfield	Additional Reserve
West Bengal	Raniganj and other small coalfields of West Bengal	159
Bihar	Jharia	13
	North Karanpura	156
	South Karanpura	18
	Auranga	376
	Rajmahal	374
Madhya Pradesh	Pench Kanhan	63
	Suhagpur	112
	Singrauli	2
	Sonhat	5
	Bisrampur	679
	Pench Bahini	11
	Hasdeo Arand	60
	Korba	109
	Mand Raigarh	172
	Tatapani Ramkola	107
Maharashtra	Wardha Valley	188
	Kamptee	43
Orissa	Ib Valley	372
	Talchir	800
Andhra Pradesh	Godavari Valley	280
	TOTAL	4099

Retrenchment in ECL

781. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem "Pack-

age for Bengal announced", appearing in Business Standard, Calcutta, on 11th February, 1999, regarding Eastern Coalfields Ltd., (ECL);

(b) whether the decision not to retrench any one in ECL, as reported above, has been conveyed to ECL Board;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether retrenchment with higher compensation through VRS is also not being forced on unions, as per the above decision; and

(e) *if so, the reasons therefor?*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The matter is under active consideration.

Exploitation of CBM

782. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an acute stagnation in growth in Coal Sector for the last several years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to activate growth in this sector, including the steps for exploiting the Coal Bed Methane (CBM), which is considered to be the fuel of the next century?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No, Sir. Production of coal in India has increased from a level of about 70 million tonnes in the early 1970s to 297.18 million tonnes in 1997-98 (Provisional).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) India have a potential of exploitation of coal Bed Methane in its coal deposits and have delineated eight areas for its exploration and exploitation. Two more areas under process of finalisation. In addition to above, a demonstration project for Coal Bed Methane recovery and Commercial utilisation is being taken up with Global Environment Facility/United Nations Development Programme assistance with the objectives of degasifying coal seams for safer extraction of coal as well as the demonstrate economic viability of harnessing Coal Bed Methane in India.

Crisis in Singarauli Collieries

783. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whehter Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Singrauli" Collieries facing crises, may close mines, appearing in the 'Hindu' dated the 21st January, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (d) The news item published in "Hindu" dated 21st January, 1999 was about Singareni Collieries and not about Singrarauli Collieries. The Singareni Collieries are operated by Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) in Andhra Pradesh. SCCL is a joint undertaking of Government of Andhra Pradesh and Government of India sharing the equity capital of the company in 51:49 ratio. The administrative control over SCCL is however with the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

The Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), having its headquarters in Singrauli, located in Sidhi District of Madhya Pradesh, is a subsidiary company of Coal India Limited. The coal mines operated by NCL are located in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.